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work and having little or no bearing on Edward's case. The reign of Mary, of little direct importance in the development of the constitution, receives eighteen pages, of which less than one is given to a consideration of the constitutional points involved in the Spanish marriage, while on the punishment of heretics the author refers to seven pages in the earlier part and repeats four pages of it. Indeed, as must have appeared already, there is much disproportionate treatment which, together with the repetitions, keeps out important matters. To give one more illustration. A very clear and full exposition of the law of libel is given, from the case of Wilkes down to the present time, but it occupies one-third of the whole space given to the long reign of George III., while at the close of the chapter on George III. and George IV. the author gives less space to the struggle between the crown and the ministry, and the reform of parliamentary representation.

There is too little organic connection between the various parts, most noticeably in the nineteenth century, where we seem to have a dictionary of detail rather than a philosophical presentation of modern conditions. Causes are almost completely ignored, and even the processes by which these conditions are reached are not worked out. No record appears of the agitation by the Radicals in the early part of this century, nor of the effect of economic distress. The various reform bills are noted, but, with the exception of that of 1832, no indication is given of the effect of each on the constitution. The great democratization of 1894 is not brought as the climax of a long development nor given the prominence which belongs to it; indeed a false or confused impression is given when on p. 583, treating of local government, a quotation from Rathbone, "a special student has lately expressed it," is given as true for 1897, when in reality Rathbone wrote in 1885 and the evils he criticised were considerably corrected by the later acts of 1888 and 1894.

CHARLES L. WELLS.

Histoire Générale du IV^e Siècle à nos Jours. Ouvrage publié sous la direction de MM. E. LAVISSE et A. RAMBAUD. Tome IX., Napoléon, 1800-1815. (Paris: Armand Colin et Cie. 1898. Pp. 1011.)

THE ninth volume of this great encyclopedia is in all respects the peer of its predecessors. Our readers know of course that it is a collection of admirable monographs by specialists in the military, literary and diplomatic history of each and all the civilized and semi-civilized lands of the earth. Its unity consists in the epoch treated and in the stitching of the sheets into one great brochure. These monographs differ from each other in style and scientific value. For the most part they realize Droysen's ideal of a history which should be scientific as the natural sciences are and therefore caviare to the profane. The collaborators are twenty-one in number and among them are men like Aulard, Faguet, H. Houssaye, Moireau, Rambaud and Vandal, than whom there are no more

distinguished historiographers in France; we use the word advisedly in its latter sense of official or semi-official historians, because with but a single exception they hold positions under the French government as instructors, curators or members of its academic organization. This fact is apparent in the treatment of all the various topics. Without exception the writers take the French and the republican standpoint; in some cases, as in that of Professor Aulard, the radical position; there is neither royalist nor imperialist polemic, no reactionary suggestion even, within the limits of the tome. There are twenty-seven lists of books, one for each of the sections, and in these there appears to be an absolute impartiality, every shade of opinion being represented. They are carefully revised, contain no trash and are invaluable to the student.

This instalment of the work, like the others, is, as we have said, essentially French in its general plan, being carefully calculated in outline, proportion and perspective for the rising generation of France. The Gallo-centric theory of history is ingrained in all its chapters. Yet it is not obtrusively set forth and for this epoch has more justification than for any other of modern history. The work of Napoleon was all-inclusive in its European contact and influence, the mainsprings of politics, diplomacy and war were for these fifteen years under his control, as far as the Continent is concerned, and in some respects general history turned on him as on a pivot. Yet we might well expect a more extended treatment of his most important adversary than is here given. About thirty-five pages in all are devoted to the specific treatment of British affairs, not many more than are set apart for the doings of the United States. The latter are discussed by Moireau, an authority on our history, the former by Sayous, who though excellent is neither a master nor a specialist.

As might be expected the rupture of the treaty of Amiens is attributed to its violation by Great Britain, but full justice is done to the fact that at best it was only a truce. As to the other great question of Napoleonic policy there is a similar specious impartiality. M. Vast declares that the second camp of Boulogne and all the naval preparations for the invasion of England were not a feint, but were the indications of a settled purpose. For this he adduces no proof, but on the other hand admits that the third coalition was already complete, that England had furnished the funds, that Russia and Austria were ready to crush France; he emphasizes the fact that Napoleon always studied his problems for two solutions, that the famous plan for invading Austria, which paralyzed the contemporary world by its genius and still stands as the classical example of a prodigy in strategic science, was the outcome of a long and minute study, and that, in the words of Ségur, its prevision foresaw the chief events as they actually occurred, their dates and decisive results, as clearly as if a month after the facts the great general and statesman had had to recall them as souvenirs. Surely facts have more value in history than speculations.

The person and character of Napoleon are nowhere in these pages brought into clear light. He moves vaguely and perhaps all the more impressively over nearly all. But the intention throughout is to give

France and the French full credit for what was great and enduring in his work, while the weaknesses and failures of her leader are exhibited as all his own. To one important question, the return from Elba, full justice is done. It is fairly stated that the Emperor of Austria had kidnapped Napoleon's son, that Metternich had delivered his wife into the hands of a court bully, that Castlereagh contemplated his deportation, that Talleyrand was conspiring to put him into an *oubliette* and that hired assassins were on his track; it is admitted that had the income solemnly promised by France been paid, his wife and child been returned to his home, and his life made secure, that had this simple justice been done, possibly Napoleon would have remained in his retreat. But here again the facts are stronger than the hypothesis. Napoleon was treated with indignity and bad faith, he was Napoleon and only forty-five years old. The consequences are well known and the narrative which sketches them in this volume is one of its excellent sections. Incidentally it is curious to note that Grouchy bears the chief blame for Waterloo, just as Desaix has been credited with the victory of Marengo. Soult, Ney and Napoleon's illness have a share in the disaster. Nowhere are the results of the latest research better used than in the brief but sufficient account of the emperor's downfall. There is no jeremiad, moreover, concerning the brutality of Sir Hudson Lowe, so long a favorite stalking-horse of French writers.

These scattered and sparse indications must suffice to explain the reviewer's opinion of this admirable work. It is a specimen of the best that modern France can do with its own history, and that best is very good indeed. But there is only a limited sense in which the history is general and the volume is more valuable to students than to readers; the American public, too, must receive it under the reserves due to the conditions already noted, that it is a semi-official manifesto of the Third Republic.

France. By JOHN EDWARD COURTENAY BODLEY. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1898. Two vols., pp. xviii, 346, vi, 504.)

DE TOCQUEVILLE'S *Ancien Régime*, Daudet's novels and the telegraphic reports of the daily newspapers have hitherto furnished the average cultivated American or Englishman with all his information about French political life. It is true that here and there in the United States one comes across a certain cult of the *Revue des Deux Mondes* such as is hardly ever to be found in England; and a steady reader of that respectable journal would doubtless learn a great deal in the course of time. But so leisurely and fragmentary a method of acquiring knowledge is hardly adequate for the purposes of the political student; and there has long been a real need for some substantial and more or less impartial treatise which should attempt to do for the one great "Republic" of the Old World what Mr. Bryce has done for that of the New.

And Mr. Bodley's two volumes are in many respects excellently well fitted to fill the gap. They are the work of a man who has known how